

SECRET

SCAA-1019

FEB 10 1954

: Senior Representative, []
ATTN: []
: AC/SE

-CBOFUS

-APPLE Security

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

References: SCAA-7816; RONE-3570, dated 5 August 1952.

1. Headquarters has initiated action on your request as stated in first reference. [] has been asked to check files and sources for further details concerning RNCATHAP's trip to Rome and information given by him to [] and possibly other Albanians on CBOFUS/RNCASTING operations.

2. Although there is no question that a serious breach of security was committed by RNCATHAP, who is believed here to have acted on specific orders from RNCASTING, we feel at present that this security leak was not the cause of APPLE's downfall. If we assume that RNCERTAIN was captured upon landing (as claimed by the opposition) on August 6, 1953, it would allow only 3 days from the reported date of RNCATHAP's conversation with [] (August 3, 1952) for this information to reach the Albanian authorities and be acted upon. It is even unlikely that this could be accomplished since no names or places were reported to have been mentioned by RNCATHAP. The assumption that RNCERTAIN was captured by the Albanian security forces immediately after parachuting is based on Radio Tirana's broadcast on the capture of the APPLE group. The eventual trial may throw more light on this subject.

3. Another reason we believe it unlikely that RNCATHAP's breach of security was the cause of APPLE's capture is based on information given by AIRWISE. [] recalls that according to AIRWISE, AIRTIGHT showed little awareness of the security precautions needed to safe guard his mission in Albania. On at least one occasion it was the direct intervention of AIRWISE or RNPULOG which saved the team from capture when AIRTIGHT was attempting to make contact with a friend. AIRWISE explained that AIRTIGHT did not fully realize the vast changes which had taken place in Albania since his departure in 1939. Thus it is possible that the departure of AIRWISE and RNPULOG left RNCERTAIN without any experienced men who

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